

Acquisition of Public Artworks Policy

Council Policy: POL/51	Acquisition of Public Artworks		
Reference	<i>Strategic Community Plan 2013- 2023</i> Priority Area: 5 Major Strategy: 5.2	<i>Corporate Business Plan 2020 - 2024</i> Priority Area: 5 Actions: 5.2	
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer		
Policy Area	Executive Services		
Council Adoption Date	23 June 2020	Version Number	4
Amendment Dates		Next Review Date	

This Policy replaces all previous policies related to this topic.

1. Policy Purpose

- 1.1. This Policy confirms the Town’s commitment to enriching Cottesloe’s natural and built environment through the collection of public artworks.
- 1.2. This Policy provides guidance for the acquisition of artworks to ensure they are of long term financial and cultural value to the community.
- 1.3. This Policy aims to ensure the purchase of artworks for the collection is approved in accordance with established delegated authority.
- 1.4. This Policy aims to provide consistency in acquisition through a comprehensive public artworks selection criteria.

2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. This Policy applies to all activities relating to the acquisition and accessioning of artworks into the Town’s collection.
- 2.2. This Policy applies to Elected Members, Executive Management and employees, including contractors (Curator).
- 2.3. This Policy applies to all advisory groups or committees which may be established by Council to assist with the purchase of artwork and/or management of the Town’s Art Collection.

3. Policy Requirements

3.1. Public Artworks Selection Criteria

Artworks being given due consideration for the Town's collection, (whether by acquisition or donation) should meet the following criteria:

- The artworks truly reflect the history and cultural heritage of the Town, its people and places and the broader Western Australian community.
 - Represents significant periods, occasions and urban initiatives in the evolution of the Town and its place in Western Australian society.
 - Enhance the environment and contribute to the culture of the community and community life.
 - Reflect Cottesloe's cultural heritage expressed through contemporary art forms.
- Design - excellence in quality and, execution based on conceptual rationale and innovation.
- Feasibility – affordability and long-term cultural and financial value including investment potential.
- Location – appropriateness of the work to the chosen site including integration with landscaping and architecture, with no adverse environmental impacts.
- Conservation – durability, robustness and ongoing maintenance requirements.
- Useful life – ephemeral or permanent.
- Public Safety – ensuring there is no unacceptable level of risk associated with any public art proposal.
- Interaction – encourages audience participation.
- Are not a duplicate of existing holdings.
- Are not a commercial print or reproduction.

An assessment Matrix is to be used to assess potential purchases (e.g. durability and safety) and be referred to Council for any proposed acquisitions.

3.2. Acquisition of Public Artwork

The Town of Cottesloe may acquire works by:

- a. Purchase;
- b. Bequest;
- c. Gift;
- d. Donations that are the sole property of the donor and which accord with this Policy with no conditions attached.
- e. In all cases, an artists are required to provide a written statement of advice related to the following aspects of the works being considered:
 - Materials used
 - Durability/life expectancy
 - Expected maintenance schedule and foreseeable costs
- f. Recommendations to acquire are required to be submitted with a completed

Public Art Acquisition/Donation Assessment Form to the CEO.

- g. Content and design of plaques displayed with public art are to be at the discretion of the CEO.

3.3. **Recommendations**

An Art Advisory Group and/or Curator may be convened/contracted to assist the Town by way of recommendations regarding art acquisitions. The scope for this is required to be determined by Council.

3.4. **Sculpture by the Sea – Purchase of Artwork**

Whilst Sculpture by the Sea remains an annual event in Cottesloe, the Town's contract with Sculpture by the Sea Incorporated in consultation with the annual budget, will determine its obligations regarding the purchase of artwork as part of that event.

Should the Town purchase any artwork, it is required to meet the criteria set out in this policy. In addition:

- a. All recommendations for the purchase of Sculpture by the Sea artworks are to be referred to Council for consideration.
- b. Whilst the purchase of artwork covered in this section of the Policy is exempt from the requirements of the Town's Purchasing Policy, an acquisition is required to comply with any purchasing conditions set out in the contract.

3.5. **Funding for Public Artwork – Annual Budget**

- a. An annual budget may be allocated to acquire new works of art for the Town's collection.
- b. An annual budget is required to be allocated to insure, conserve and document artworks as necessary.
- c. The budget should reflect the goals of the Public Art Strategy and policies of the collection and take into consideration factors such as the cost of acquiring historical artworks.

- 3.6. The Town's administration is required to maintain an up to date and accurate electronic register of the Town's public artwork ensuring it includes maintenance reports and an annual 'Sculpture Assessment Report'.

- 3.7. For the purpose of community information the Town of Cottesloe Public Artworks Register is to be made available on the Town's website.

4. **Definitions**

- 4.1. **Public Art** – means artwork in any medium outside a gallery context inclusive of many cultures, traditions and art forms located in highly accessible public spaces.
- 4.2. **Acquisition** – means the process of obtaining valid title to a work of art.
- 4.3. **Collection** – means works of art in various media that are the property of the Town of Cottesloe.

5. Legislation

- 5.1. *Local Government Act 1995* – Section 2.7 – The Role of Council

6. Other Relevant Procedures/Key Documents

- 6.1. Public Art Strategy
- 6.2. Management of Artworks Policy
- 6.3. Purchasing Policy
- 6.4. Delegated Authority Register